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THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 1037**  
Kouki FUKUI : Docket No. 2001\_0681A  
Serial No. 09/870,480 : Group Art Unit 1772  
Filed June 1, 2001 : Examiner W. Aughenbaugh

#5/B  
1219-02

NONCOMBUSTIBLE INSULATING DUCT

**AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of September 12, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**In the Specification and Abstract:**

Kindly replace the original specification and abstract with the enclosed substitute specification and abstract.

**In the Claims:**

Kindly cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice.

Kindly add new claims 15-41 as follows.

15. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct comprising:  
an elongated strip formed of an insulating material and a noncombustible sheet  
encasing said insulating material;  
wherein said elongated strip is arranged in a spiral shape having a plurality of turns;

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